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2008 SEP 12 P 2:43

AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL**Dorothy Sturges****P.O. Box-282  
Sonoita, AZ 85637****520-455-5859  
chili333@mac.com**

AUG 21 2008

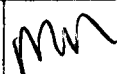
Arizona Corporation Commission

**DOCKETED**

SEP 12 2008

August 20, 2008

**Senator John McCain  
407 West Congress St., Suite 103  
Tucson, AZ 85701**

DOCKETED BY	
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Dear Senator McCain:

The purpose of this letter is to let you know that our local power company, Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative (SSVEC), plans to bring a 69 KV line to Sonoita from Huachuca City. The need for additional power is necessary, however, what needs to be addressed are the following:

- (1) The route the power line will take
- (2) Is electric the answer - what about alternate sources of energy?
- (3) Are there other ways to bring power to Sonoita?
- (4) Is this line necessary?
- (5) Is this the right line?
- (6) Potential damage to the Audubon Research Ranch

Re (1): The SSVEC chose four possible routes for this line. Option #1 was to use the already existing power line route along State Highway 83 (the choice preferred by the overwhelming majority of interested citizens), however, they chose Option #3 which will bring the line right thru the residential neighborhoods of Sunset Knolls and Sonoita Hills. Let's consider what this means: the poles to be used are 64 feet tall and will have four two inch in diameter cables suspended from arms on the upper portions of the poles and a cross arm with four smaller diameter wires located on the lower portion of the poles. These poles will be twice as tall as all other power poles located in this residential area

and ten feet taller than any other poles to be used on this project. The line would cut a fifty foot path thru this area, not a very nice prospect for residential neighborhoods.

Re (2): The SSVEC has given no consideration to using alternate sources of energy. Two things that Sonoita has in abundance are sun and wind. Furthermore it is mandated that 15% of our energy come from alternate energy sources.

Re (3): There are other ways to supply Sonoita with energy such as tapping into the TEP line which runs to Huachuca City. This would obviate the need for a new line. This matter has not been explored by the SSVEC.

Re (4): The Sonoita load is 7 MW which could be provided by a 46 KV line that can carry at least 22 MW. Why is so much power being brought in, far more than we need? Why not use the smaller line?

Re (5): Originally the SSVEC proposed a loop, citing the need for reliable power. The loop has been dropped, we are merely getting another line.

Re (6): The proposed line would run right along the edge of the Audubon Research Ranch. Damage from work already begun has negatively impacted at least 40 long term research projects. This ranch is known world wide and is unique. One proposed project has already been canceled and it may be assumed that more will be because of the proposed power line.

Thus far the SSVEC has declined to meet with and listen to a representative committee from the community. What we are requesting is to stop this project immediately until the SSVEC is willing to sit down and consider our thoughts and ideas. This is a problem that can be solved but it requires that both sides meet, allow us to express our grave concerns about this project and exchanging ideas.

I retired to Sonoita 22 years ago because of its uniqueness, it's beauty, it's mountains, it's bird and animal life etc. It is an area that Gov. Napolitano has called one of Arizona's "Crown Jewels". It is an area worth protecting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and anything you can do to help would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Dorothy Sturges.*

Dorothy Sturges



# Audubon

AUG 21 2008

Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch

HC 1, Box 44, 366 Research Ranch Rd

Elgin, AZ 85611

August 18, 2008

Senator John McCain  
407 West Congress Street, Suite 103  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: 69kV power line to Sonoita

Dear Senator McCain:

Enclosed is my letter to the Board of Directors of Sulphur Springs Valley Electrical Cooperative (SSVEC) urging them to halt construction on the above referenced project until a more thorough evaluation of the project has been conducted. SSVEC has not properly notified members of community, has not been willing to work with the community, has not documented the purpose and need for the project, has not analyzed alternatives, and has not fully examined the consequences of this action.

I urge you to give this situation your consideration.

Respectfully,

Linda Kennedy, Ph.D., Director

Enclosure



# Audubon

Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch

HC 1, Box 44, 366 Research Ranch Rd

Elgin, AZ 85611

August 18, 2008

Board of Directors  
Sulfur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative  
P.O. Box 820  
Willcox, AZ 85644-0820

**Re: 69kV power line to Sonoita**

Dear Members of the Board:

I am well aware of the time and effort you, as Board members, invest for the communities you serve and wish to tell you that I appreciate your willingness to serve in such an important role. Safe and affordable electric power has transformed rural areas of the United States, and is an integral support to our society. However, I encourage you to use your position wisely, and carefully consider the unintended consequences of what may, at first, appear to be a worthy action.

I urge you, as board members, to immediately halt the construction activities on the above referenced power line until all aspects of the project have been thoroughly considered.

As a cooperative, you have an obligation to your customers not only to provide safe and affordable electric power, but to do so by working cooperatively with the communities served. I present the following bullet list as indication that this has not been done for this project:

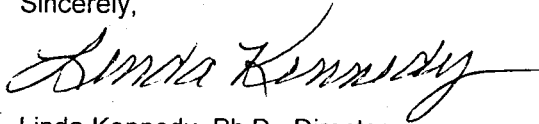
- Work by a previous planning committee has been rejected with no explanation,
- A written proposal of this project was not made available for public comment,
- A clear purpose and need for this project has not been presented,
- Alternative solutions have not been fully considered,
- Staff members have stone-walled efforts by members of the Sonoita community to discuss the situation,
- The current route is not consistent with the character description of the area as described in the approved Santa Cruz County Comprehensive Plan,
- All property owners have not been contacted,
- All consequences of this action have not been considered including the impacts on wildlife, the watershed, the riparian corridor, the viewshed, spread of invasive species, and on the community.

As an example, let me briefly outline a major impact the proposed project will have on the Research Ranch, a nationally recognized ecological preserve and research facility. One of our primary research objectives is to elucidate the effects of domestic livestock on southwestern grasslands with the goal of sustaining ecosystems and wildlife habitats in the Southwest. Cross fence comparisons between the ungrazed lands of the Research Ranch and our ranching neighbors such as the Babacomari Ranch have been conducted for over four decades, resulting in numerous scientific publications and providing valuable guidance to private entities and to

federal and state entities charged with land management (i.e. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Arizona State Parks, Arizona Game & Fish). Topics addressed through our research program include the spread of invasive non-native species, water infiltration and run-off, listed and common species, effects of fire on grasslands and savanna habitat and many more. By placing this power line immediately adjacent to our north boundary you will effectively halt future meaningful cross-fence comparisons for decades. You will negate the value of archived data accumulated over the past 40 years.

I ask you, again, to halt this project immediately. I believe that, after proper deliberation and consultation with the community, a solution can be developed that is mutually beneficial to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda Kennedy". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Linda Kennedy, Ph.D., Director

e-mailed to Director Joseph Furno (velandjoe@dakotacom.net), with hard copy mailed to SSVEC

CC: Arizona Corporation Commission, Janet Napolitano, John Kyl, John McCain, Gabrielle Giffords, Timothy S. Bee, Marian McClure, Jonathan Paton, John Maynard, Ben Brophy, Sam Campana, Waite Osterkamp, Sonoita Crossroads Community Forum, Sonoita Chamber of Commerce